

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, IR UR, XB

SUBJ: ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY: SOVIETS NUDGE IRAN.

REF: MOSCOW 2931 (NOTAL)

1. SOVIET- IRANIAN JOINT COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED MARCH 17 IS
NOTABLE FOR IRANIAN WILLINGNESS TO MENTION SOVIET- SPONSORED
ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY SCHEME, GOING STEP BEYOND LAST
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OCTOBER' S COMMUNIQUE WHICH ELABORATED PRINCIPLES WOTHOUT NAMING THE CONCEPT ITSELF. PRINCIPLES REMAIN UNCHANGED FROM THOSE LISTED AT END OF SHAH' S VISIT, WHICH IN TURN ESSENTIALLY IDENTICAL WITH BREZHNEV' S FORMULATIONS FIRST ADVANCED AT TRADE UNION CONGRESS IN MARCH 1972 -- I. E., RENUNCIATION OF FORCE, RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY AND INVIOABILITY OF FRONTIERS, NON- INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION ON BASIS OF EQUALITY AND MUTUAL BENEFIT. WE SURMISE THAT MENTION OF ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY IN COMMUNIQUE BUT NOT IN KOSYGIN SPEECH (REFTEL) INDICATES THAT IRANIAN DECISION TO MEET SOVIET POSITION WAS TAKEN AS RESULT OF BARGAINING PROCESS DURING DRAFTING.

2. ACTUAL WORDING OF COMMUNIQUE PUTS IRAN ON RECORD AS STATING " INTENTION TO CONTRIBUTE TO REALIZATION OF IDEA OF CREATING " ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY SSYTEM. ALTHOUGH THIS HARDLY CONSTITUTES BINDING COMMITMENT, IT WILL PERMIT SOVIETS TO CLAIM SUPPORT OR INTEREST FROM STILL ANOTHER COUNTRY IN ASIA FOR AN IDEA WHICH IS CLEARLY AT THE FOREFRONT OF SOVIET ASIA POLICY NOWADAYS.

3. COROLLARY OF ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY SALES PITCH IS CONSISTENT NEGATIVE SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD ASIAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH MILITARY OVERTONES. WITHDRAWAL OF MALAYSIA FROM ASPAC PROMPTED PRAVDA COMMENTARY MARCH 18 LAUDING THIS DECISION AND PREDICTING DEMISE OF BLOCS BASED ON OPPOSITION TO COMMUNIST THREAT. PRAVDA APPROVINGLY NOTED AUSTRALIAN ABSENCE FROM LATEST ASPAC SESSION. A SIMILAR COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA MARCH 12 TOOK SATISFACTION FROM POSTPONEMENT OF SEATO ANNUAL MEETING UNTIL AUTUMN, AT SAME TIME QUOTING SELECTED CRITICISMS OF ORGANIZATION FROM AUSTRALIA AND PHILIPPINES.

DUBS

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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